

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 2:43 PM
Subject: The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. COPS Office Grant Announcements - New Funding Opportunities Open Now

The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. is pleased to announce that the following three grant funding opportunities are now open and accepting applications with the Department of Justice.

Please let us know if you will apply and send us a copy of your application. The Congressman will draft a letter of support.

School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

The 2020 COPS Office School Violence Prevention Program is a competitive program that provides funding directly to States, units of local government, Indian tribes, and its public agencies to be used to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the jurisdiction of the grantee through evidence-based school safety programs. Up to \$50 million is available for this program.

Applications are due by April 8, 2020 at 7:59 PM EDT. Please click [here](#) for more information on the 2020 School Violence Prevention Program.

COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP)

The 2020 COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program is a competitive grant program that advances public safety by providing funds directly to state law enforcement agencies to investigate illicit activities related to the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine. Up to \$13 million is available for this program.

Applications are due by April 8, 2020 at 7:59 PM EDT. Please click [here](#) for more information on the 2020 COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program.

Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) Program

The 2020 Anti-Heroin Task Force program is a competitive grant program that assists state law enforcement agencies in states with high per capita levels of primary treatment admissions for both heroin and other opioids. AHTF funds must be used for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities related to the distribution of heroin, fentanyl, carfentanyl, or other opioids, or the unlawful distribution of prescription opioids. Up to \$35 million is available for this program.

Applications are due by April 8, 2020 at 7:59 PM EDT. Please click [here](#) for more information on the 2020 Anti-Heroin Task Force program.

Respectfully,

Ian Eric Godfrey

Outreach Coordinator

The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-09)

Phone: 973-523-5152

Fax 973-523-0637

Email: Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:10 PM
Subject: The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr: COPS Office Fiscal Year 2020 Solicitation Deadlines Extended

COPS Office Fiscal Year 2020 Solicitation Deadlines Extended

The COPS Office has extended the solicitation deadline for several open grant programs due to the potential impact of jurisdictional emergency responses to COVID-19 that may cause reasonable delays for applicants. The following program deadlines have been extended:

- **Deadline Extended from March 31 to April 14**
 - Community Policing Development (CPD) Program
 - Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program
 - Preparing for Active Shooter Situations (PASS) Program
 - Tribal Resources Grant Program–Technical Assistance (TRGP-TA)
- **Deadline Extended from April 8 to April 22**
 - COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) Program
 - COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP)
- **Deadline Extended from April 8 to April 29**
 - School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

For detailed information about our solicitations, please visit the [COPS Office website](#).

Best,

Ian Eric Godfrey
Outreach Coordinator
The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-09)
Phone: 973-523-5152
Fax 973-523-0637
Email: Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 9:53 AM
Subject: The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Good Morning,

The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. is reaching out to your department to see if you are experiencing any issues receiving Personal Protective Equipment. With many first responders and pre-hospital health providers (like EMS) coming into contact with COVID-19, our office wants to provide whatever assistance we can if you are trying to get PPE for your department.

Best,

Ian Eric Godfrey
Outreach Coordinator
The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-09)
Phone: 973-523-5152
Fax 973-523-0637
Email: Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:27 PM
Subject: The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr: Saturday (3/28) ONLY First Responders and Health Care Workers will receive COVID-19 Tests at Bergen Community College Testing Center

Bergen County: Bergen Community College

Address: 400 Paramus Road (Paramus Campus - Lots B & C), Paramus, NJ 07652

Hours: 8:00a-4:00p ET (or until daily test supplies run out)

What To Know: In order to be eligible for testing, individuals must be current New Jersey residents and experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness. Priority will be given to symptomatic individuals experiencing cough, fever (99.6F or above), and shortness of breath.

Note: Saturday (3/28) only first responders and health care workers will receive tests. Normal testing procedures will resume on Sunday (3/29).

Respectfully,

Ian Godfrey
The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
973-523-5152
Ian.Godfrey@Mail.House.Gov

Dennis Rivelli

From: Dennis Rivelli
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Tom Berlinski
Subject: FW: The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr: Department of Justice-Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program
Attachments: PSOB and COVID-19 - April 3 2020.pdf

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 2:02 PM
Subject: The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr: Department of Justice-Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program

Good Afternoon,

The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. would like to share new information provided by the Department of Justice regarding the **Public Safety Officers' Benefits program**.

"Administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death benefits to the eligible survivors of public safety officers who are fatally injured in the line of duty, disability benefits to public safety officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty, and education benefits to the eligible spouses and children of fallen and catastrophically injured officers..."

"With the recent outbreak of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, America's law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders face a new health risk as they continue to selflessly serve their communities. Under the current PSOB Act and its implementing regulations, conditions caused by infectious diseases, viruses, and bacteria may be found to be an injury sustained in the line of duty"

For questions regarding the PSOB Program or filing a claim, visit PSOB's online portal at www.psob.gov or email the PSOB Director at AskPSOB@usdoj.gov.

Respectfully,

Ian Godfrey
The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Phone: 973-523-5152
Email: Ian.Godfrey@Mail.House.Gov

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:49 PM
Subject: The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. FY 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program

FY 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program

The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program will provide funding to assist eligible states, local units of government, and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus.

Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses, and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers.

Link <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-18553>

Closing Date: May 29, 2020

Respectfully,

Ian Godfrey

The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Phone: 973-523-5152

Email: Ian.Godfrey@Mail.House.Gov

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 1:20 PM
Subject: Pascrell Leads 159 Colleagues Demanding Support for First Responders



U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
For Immediate Release
April 10, 2020

Media Contacts:
Mark Greenbaum
(202) 225-5751
Mark.greenbaum@mail.house.gov

Pascrell Leads 159 Colleagues Demanding Support for First Responders

*Bipartisan letter to House leadership pushes increased funding for police, firefighters, EMTs
on the frontlines*

PATERSON, NJ – U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09), Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and Law Enforcement Caucus, today led 159 of his Democratic and Republican House colleagues urging the chamber's leadership to ensure strong additional support for the nation's first responders who work in one of the highest risk occupations for COVID-19 exposure in future emergency stimulus funding packages. This letter was co-led by Reps. Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD-5), Peter T. King (R-NY-2), and Mike Bost (R-IL-12), Co-Chairs of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, and Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL-4), Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus.

"First responders are routinely in physical contact with potentially infected persons and are facing unprecedented volumes of dispatch calls, especially in severely impacted areas. A short supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders to guard against disease exposure has left many police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel exposed to the dangers of this crisis. This has resulted in too many across our nation contracting COVID-19, officers being forced to self-quarantine, and staffing shortages when our first responders are needed most," **the members write.**

A copy of Rep. Pascrell's letter is available [here](#), the text of which is provided below.

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We appreciate your work to provide support for our nation's police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. However, additional assistance is needed during this crisis. As Congress considers further legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to include additional support for our nation's first responders who work in one of the highest risk occupations for COVID-19 exposure.^[i] First responders are routinely in physical contact with potentially infected persons and are facing unprecedented volumes of dispatch calls, especially in severely impacted areas.^[ii]

A short supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders to guard against disease exposure has left many police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel exposed to the dangers of this crisis. This has resulted in too many across our nation contracting COVID-19, officers being forced to self-quarantine, and staffing shortages when our first responders are needed most.^[iii] As of April 7 more than 1,900 New York City Police Department (NYPD) employees have contracted COVID-19 with 6,900 in total in quarantine, and 282 New York City Fire Department (FDNY) employees have contracted COVID-19 with 950 in total in quarantine.^{[iv][v]} While New York City is the current epicenter of the U.S. outbreak, many other cities and states with developing outbreaks such as New Jersey^[vi], Florida^[vii], Detroit^[viii], Seattle^[ix], Washington D.C.^[x], and several additional states and cities across the nation^[xi] have reported a significant number of first responders contracting COVID-19 or in self-quarantine.

As this outbreak develops, many more first responders will undoubtedly contract COVID-19 or be forced to self-quarantine. To support our nation's police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel serving on the frontlines of this pandemic we urge action on the below items.

- Bolster resources so state and local police, fire, and EMS departments can directly access resources to purchase and be reimbursed for PPE, retain existing employees, and cover overtime, backfill costs, and COVID-19 related paid sick leave through grants at the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and waive grant requirements to ensure funds are eligible for reimbursement of all COVID-19 related expenses and expeditiously reach departments in need. Further, police, fire, and EMS personnel serving in areas most impacted by COVID-19 should receive hazard pay, expeditiously distributed to their employing agency through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Mandate the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant waivers to Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants recipients for employee retention to aid staffing shortages departments are facing. We urge language retroactively mandating the DHS Secretary grant such waivers for FY19 and FY20 SAFER funds.
- Extend hazard pay to all frontline federal firefighters and law enforcement officers, overtime pay to U.S. Probation Officers, and waive the federal firefighter and law enforcement officer overtime cap under 5 USC § 5547.
- Address the gap in paid sick leave coverage for first responders by mandating that the employing agency, not the employee, provide up to 80 hours of paid sick leave should these departments order the employee to self-quarantine due to potential COVID-19 exposure.
- Create a presumption in the Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB) program that a public safety officer's infection of COVID-19 resulted from their employment to clearly establish eligibility for death or disability benefits due to the pandemic.

During a time of crisis, communities rely on local first responders as the first line of defense for protection and emergency response. As you continue to develop further legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to include the above items so our nation's first responders can operate at full capacity as we fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

###

Respectfully,

Ian Godfrey

The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Phone: 973-523-5152

Email: Ian.Godfrey@Mail.House.Gov

^[i] <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/03/15/business/economy/coronavirus-worker-risk.html>

^[ii] <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/28/nvregion/nyc-coronavirus-ems.html>

^[iii] <https://www.propublica.org/article/emergency-medical-responders-have-lacked-guidance-and-are-stretched-for-supplies-and-personnel-to-combat-coronavirus>

^[iv] <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/07/us/nypd-coronavirus-out-sick/index.html>

^[v] <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/01/more-than-1000-nyc-police-officers-are-infected-with-coronavirus.html>

^[vi] <https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2020/03/700-nj-police-officers-have-tested-positive-for-coronavirus-state-police-leader-says.html>

^[vii] <https://www.actionnewsjax.com/news/local/jacksonville-area-coronavirus-updates-people-drinking-alcohol-cope-during-pandemic-research-shows/I3DJIWFY2JFVFI6Z7L2AL7KCRM/>

^[viii] https://www.wnem.com/news/detroit-mayor-updates-number-of-first-responders-testing-positive-for-covid-19/article_aed777c2-7452-11ea-8cb8-7f4b500357a9.html

^[ix] <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/seattle-has-booked-an-entire-downtown-hotel-for-first-responders-to-isolate-and-quarantine-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

^[x] <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/32-of-dcs-first-responders-test-positive-for-coronavirus/2260241/>

^[xi] https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/police-in-several-cities-test-positive-for-coronavirus-stirring-fears-of-spread-among-first-responders/2020/03/28/b88b17f4-6f9a-11ea-a3ec-70d7479d83f0_story.html

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:35 PM
Subject: Pascrell, Nadler, Rose Introduce Legislation to Compensate Public Safety Officers Impacted by COVID-19



U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
For Immediate Release
April 14, 2020

Media Contacts:
Mark Greenbaum
(202) 225-5751
Mark.greenbaum@mail.house.gov

Pascrell, Nadler, Rose Introduce Legislation to Compensate Public Safety Officers Impacted by COVID-19

New bill will give peace of mind and support to families of officers who die from virus

PATERSON, NJ – Today, U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09), Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus and Fire Services Caucus, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-10), and Rep. Max Rose (D-NY-11) introduced the Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act of 2020. This legislation would expand an existing federal program to ensure that public safety officers who contract COVID-19 in the line of duty are eligible for benefits should they become disabled or die from the virus.

“America’s public safety officers are out on the frontlines of this pandemic keeping America up and running as best they can,” **said Rep. Pascrell, who last week led 160 bipartisan members demanding a presumption for first responders.** “They are risking their lives to protect all of our communities from this virus. Our heroes deserve the peace of mind that their loved ones will be eligible for support Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program. Thanks to Chairman Jerry Nadler and Rep. Max Rose, this critical legislation will make sure that if our heroes get sick from this terrible illness it will be presumed to be in the line of duty and their families will not be left out in the cold. The loss of both Officer Scorpo in Paterson and Firefighter Tolentino in Passaic are top of mind for me during this pandemic. Congress must do all it can to enact policies that take care of those on front lines helping our family, friends and neighbors get through this crisis.”

“Whether they are law enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical technicians, public safety officers selflessly put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities,” **said Chairman Nadler**. “During this time of crisis, as the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, public safety officers remain on call 24-7, which puts them at serious risk for exposure. I, along with Reps. Rose and Pascrell, introduced the Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act to ensure they receive the benefits they deserve, should they become disabled or perish from the virus. As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I will do everything in my power to ensure this becomes law. In the days and weeks ahead, it is imperative that we do all we can to limit exposure to COVID-19 for all essential workers who are helping our nation during this unprecedented time.”

Nadler continued, “While this bill is focused on public safety officers, we realize that many other Americans are working on the frontlines of this crisis – doctors, nurses, grocery store workers, and others deemed essential – and we fully support efforts to also provide benefits to these heroes through other measures. We stand ready to work with others in Congress and in the Administration to assist these essential workers who are putting their lives on the line during this crisis.”

The Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act of 2020 would:

- Establish that a diagnosis for COVID-19 will be presumed to constitute a personal injury in the line of duty for the purposes of eligibility for the Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB) program, unless the officer was not on duty in the relevant time period.
- Establish the COVID-19-related disability standard be based on whether a PSOB claimant is permanently prevented from performing any gainful work as a public safety officer on account of their COVID-19 diagnosis.
- Ensure that officers who were injured or disabled in the line of duty in relation to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and whose injuries—in combination with a line of duty COVID-19 illness—rendered them disabled or caused their death will receive benefits under the PSOB program.

Currently, public safety officers or their families are eligible to receive benefits under the Public Safety Officers’ Benefit program, administered by the Department of Justice, upon death or disability caused by injury or illness sustained in the line of duty. The Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act of 2020 would expand the program to include COVID-19 as an eligible personal injury. In the immediate aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks, Chairman Nadler introduced and passed into law a bill to amend the PSOB to ensure those killed and injured on 9/11 were immediately eligible for the program.

A section by section of the legislation is available [here](#).

Rep. Pascrell has worked tirelessly to provide support for public safety officers before and during this crisis. He recently [led a letter](#) of 159 Members which urged that public safety officers who contract COVID-19 be eligible for death or disability benefits. [Two North Jersey](#) first responders who [lost their lives](#) due to COVID-19 would automatically qualify for death benefits if Pascrell’s request is granted. Pascrell is also leading the way on reforms for the PSOB program with the [Protecting America’s First Responders Act](#) (H.R. 2812).

###

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:46 AM
Subject: FYI: First Responders and Healthcare workers free "Thank You Meal" at McDonald's restaurants.

Good Morning,

Beginning today, April 22 through May 5, **first responders and healthcare workers can stop by any participating McDonald's restaurant for a free "Thank You Meal."** Each Thank You Meal will be available at no charge via drive thru or carry out at participating McDonald's restaurants.

Respectfully,

Ian Godfrey
The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Phone: 973-523-5152
Email: Ian.Godfrey@Mail.House.Gov

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 9:27 AM
Subject: You're Invited: Public Safety Teleconference hosted by Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

RE: Public Safety Teleconference
Date: Tuesday, April 28th
Time 6pm
[Register Here](#)

Greetings,

With the outbreak of COVID-19, I know that our men and women in uniform are working around the clock to protect our community. As co-chair of both the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and the Law Enforcement Caucus, I want you to know that I continue to strongly advocate for emergency services. For example, this month I introduced the Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act of 2020 and led a bipartisan coalition of 159 of my colleagues demanding more federal resources for first responders. The road ahead will be a challenge, but I have your back.

Please accept this invitation to join my **Public Safety Teleconference** on **Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6 PM** to ask questions, provide feedback and hear about our work to provide resources to our first responders. [Register now](#) and email Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov with any questions. Feel free to forward information about this call to other members of your organization. As your representative and friend, you will always have my support.

I look forward to speaking with you on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 5:12 PM
Subject: The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. Coronavirus Pandemic: Additional \$100 million available to Firefighters
Attachments: FEMA_Advisory_COVID19_AFG_Supplemental_Final_20200423.pdf; FY_2020_AFG_COVID-19_Supplemental_Fact_Sheet__Approved.20200423.pdf

Greetings,

The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. is pleased to announce that the **FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters COVID-19 Supplemental grant program** will begin accepting applications from Tuesday, April 28 to Friday, May 15. This grant (AFG-S) provides funds for the purchase of PPE and related supplies for our nation's first responders during the coronavirus (COVID- 19) response. **Those who would like to start planning their application** before the application period can access the Notice of Funding Opportunity and technical assistance tools on the [FEMA website](#). The online AFG-S Grant Program application is available through the AFG [FEMA Grants Outcomes \(GO\) application portal](#).

If you have questions about the technical assistance tools please call at (866) 274-0960. The AFG Help Desk is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT, Monday – Friday.

Respectfully,

Ian Godfrey

The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Phone: 973-523-5152

Email: Ian.Godfrey@Mail.House.Gov

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:23 AM
Subject: FY 2019 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Application Period Opening

The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr is pleased to announce:

FY 2019 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Application Period Opening

This Advisory is notification that the application period for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security FEMA Fiscal Year 2019 FP&S Grant Program will open on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 8 a.m. (Eastern Time) and will close on Friday, May 29, 2020 at 5 p.m. (Eastern Time).

The purpose of the FP&S Program is to reach high-risk target groups and reduce deaths and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards. Funding under FP&S also supports Firefighter Safety as well as Research and Development (R&D) activities. The allocation of FP&S awards is a highly competitive process; awards are determined based on an applicant's ability to both address FP&S program priorities and provide the most compelling justification for their need.

For Fiscal Year 2019, FEMA will provide \$35 million to strengthen community fire prevention programs and enable scientific research on innovations that improve firefighter safety, health and wellness.

FEMA released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY 2019 FP&S on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. The NOFO and technical assistance documents for this program are available at www.grants.gov and on the [FEMA website](#).

Contact Us

Fire departments or other applicants requiring assistance, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>; call the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program Help Desk at (866) 274-0960 or email them at firegrants@fema.dhs.gov. The AFG Program Help Desk is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Additionally, if you have not registered for our Public Safety Advisory tonight, please feel free to do so by following the link below.

RE: Public Safety Teleconference

Date: Tuesday, April 28th

Time 6pm

[Register Here](#)

Respectfully,

Ian Godfrey

The Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Phone: 973-523-5152

Email: Ian.Godfrey@Mail.House.Gov

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:25 PM
Subject: Pascrell Announces \$43 Million for NJ State Police



U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
For Immediate Release
April 29, 2020

Media Contacts:
Mark.greenbaum@mail.house.gov

Pascrell Announces \$43 Million for NJ State Police

Federal grant helps cover costs to fight pandemic

PATERSON, NJ – U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09), co-chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, announced today that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded \$43,739,760.71 to the New Jersey State Police as part of the State's approval to receive FEMA Public Assistance funds. This federal award comes amid Pascrell's fervent push for increasing the FEMA Public Assistance cost share that currently requires states to shoulder 25 percent of public and individual assistance expenses while the federal government is responsible for 75 percent of the costs.

"Our men and women in uniform are leading the battle on the frontlines to keep our communities safe," **said Rep. Pascrell.** "They are routinely at risk of becoming infected due to the high volume of emergency calls. Because of this, we need all the help we can get from the federal government. These public assistance funds are welcome relief, but we need more help. Whether it's being reimbursed for non-congregate housing or other costs related to fighting this virus, I have demanded a change in this cost share formula. The current split is unacceptable and unsustainable."

Even as he abides by social distancing guidelines, Rep. Pascrell has remained in constant contact with federal agencies to secure critical federal funding for New Jersey's coronavirus response efforts. He announced last week \$2.4 million in federal disaster funding for Bergen County. Earlier this month, he announced \$63 million in federal funds for New Jersey's child care services, \$254,000 in emergency health funds for Paterson and St. Joseph's Hospital, and \$157,000 in coronavirus relief funding for Teterboro Airport. He also announced last month \$14.6M in emergency housing and urban development grants for local governments to ensure that our underserved neighbors needs are met during the pandemic.

###

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:32 PM
Subject: Pascrell Hails HEROES Act: The Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act (H.R. 6800)



U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
For Immediate Release
May 12, 2020

Media Contacts:
Mark.greenbaum@mail.house.gov

Pascrell Hails HEROES Act

House Democrats' package focuses on relief for a wounded nation

PATERSON, NJ – U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09) today praised the introduction of the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act ([H.R. 6800](#)) in the House of Representatives to provide more immediate relief to every state and local government across the United States and needed relief for vital workers like first responders, health workers, and teachers keeping us safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"America stands at the cliff's edge of one of the great crisis points in our nation's history. The decisions we make today to meet this challenge will determine the health and welfare of generations that will follow us," **said Rep. Pascrell**. "This landmark legislation is decisive protection for every American, every state and every locality as we continue to weather this storm. Our neighbors and our communities are drowning and need a line. To those who nay-say, doing nothing is signing a death warrant for our republic and for countless Americans. Moments of cataclysm demand solutions of equal scope and urgency. The HEROES Act is the natural next step Congress must take to save us from this crisis."

SALT Relief. Pascrell issued a separate statement on the inclusion of a two-year elimination of the state and local tax (SALT) deduction imposed by the GOP Tax Scam of 2017:

"The inclusion of SALT relief in the HEROES Act is a recognition that SALT relief is needed economic relief in response to the COVID crisis," **said Rep. Pascrell, who has been leading efforts in the House to restore SALT**. "In fact, SALT relief is critical assistance for our state and local governments, which are already facing brutal service cuts and need help now. The titanic struggle of New Jerseyans to weather this storm has been made more difficult by the constraints of the SALT cap. The SALT relief our bill provides can be a life preserver for our neighbors across New Jersey who are struggling to survive the coming weeks and months."

Relief for NJ Hospitals. Pascrell also commented on the inclusion in this bill of his Imputed Rural Floor fix, which will reverse a Trump policy that has unfairly targeted New Jersey hospitals:

“House Democrats passed historic stimulus packages to stabilize the economy and put relief directly in the hands of the American people. Today as we continue to advance these goals with another package dealing with this crisis, we’re also moving to end a Trump policy that has unfairly targeted our struggling New Jersey hospitals,” **said Rep. Pascrell, who has long supported the IRF and has led efforts to have it restored.** “For years, our state’s congressional delegation came together in support of a wage index floor for all-urban states. This fix-guarantees equal treatment for New Jersey’s health care facilities as they weather this crisis on the frontlines.”

HEROES Act Key Provisions

Additional recovery rebates to individuals: The bill provides another \$1200 refundable tax credit for each family member to be paid out in advance payments, similar to the Economic Impact Payments in the CARES Act. The credit is \$1200 for single filers (\$2400 for joint filers), in addition to \$1200 per dependent up to a maximum of three dependents. The credit starts phasing out at \$75,000 of modified adjusted gross income, \$112,500 for head of households and \$150,000 for joint filers.

Support for state and local governments. The newly created State and Local Coronavirus Relief Fund would provide **\$500 billion to states and \$375 billion to local governments** that can be used for COVID-related expenses. The funds would be distributed based on the state’s share of COVID cases and population.

Help for New Jersey. New Jersey will receive **\$16.661 billion**, specifically \$10.230 billion in 2020 and \$6.431 billion in 2021.

Aid for NJ local governments. New Jersey municipal governments will receive **\$11.286 billion**, specifically \$7.524 billion in 2020 and \$3.762 billion in 2021.

Unemployment assistance extended. The legislation extends the emergency unemployment benefits included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act through January 31, 2021.

Assistance for first responders. The legislation makes essential work employers eligible for grants of \$10,000 per essential worker (\$5,000 for highly compensated essential workers) to cover the entire cost of premium pay, including employer payroll taxes.

Help for heroes. The legislation includes both the Pascrell-led Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act (H.R. 6509) which will provide a Public Safety Officer Benefits death and disability presumption for officers who contract COVID-19, and Rep. Pascrell’s Supporting America’s First Responders Act (H.R. 5342) which will provide an above-the-line deduction to first responders for expenses related to tuition or fees related to professional development courses or uniforms.

Grants for firefighters. The legislation provides **\$500 million** for Staffing for Adequate Fire Emergency Response (SAFER) grants for hiring and retaining firefighters, and **\$500 million** for Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) for personal protective equipment, mental health evaluations, training, and infectious disease decontamination.

Grants for police. The legislation provides **\$300 million** for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants for hiring and re-hiring of police officers, as well as **\$300 million** for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne JAG) to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including for

purchasing personal protective equipment and controlling outbreaks of coronavirus in prisons. Importantly, the bill will block the Department of Justice from preventing these funds from going to sanctuary jurisdictions.

Help for hospitals. The HEROES Act requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to re-establish a rural floor for the Medicare hospital area wage index for all-urban hospitals. New Jersey is designated as an all-urban state by CMS and without this rural floor provision, our hospitals are at a disadvantage. New Jersey hospitals are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic and they need every resource possible, including parity in Medicare payments.

Treatment coverage for Americans. The bill includes Rep. Pascrell's Coverage for COVID-19 Treatment Act (H.R. 6568), which provides coverage of COVID-19 related treatment at no cost sharing. It further requires coverage of items and services related to the treatment of COVID-19 in group and individual market health plans and waives cost-sharing requirements for consumers during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Refundable EITC and CTC for Puerto Rico: The bill includes Rep. Pascrell's legislation extending the Earned Income Tax Credit and the full Child Tax Credit to Puerto Rico and the other territories.

Increases Federal FEMA Public Assistance Cost Share. Per a request led by Rep. Pascrell in April, this bill increases to 100 percent the Federal cost share for assistance provided under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The current cost share is 75 percent for the federal government and 25 percent for state governments.

Pension relief. The bill includes relief for multiemployer pension plans similar to the Butch Lewis legislation championed by Mr. Pascrell, which passed the House last year.

Saving the post office. The legislation will provide an infusion of **\$25 billion** to help the United States Postal Service survive the pandemic and continue providing invaluable service.

Saving the free press. The HEROES Act includes pension funding relief for certain community newspapers, including several periodicals in the Northeast.

Estimated Possible Breakdown of Local Coronavirus Relief Funding to the 35 Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic cities and towns in NJ-09 as Provided by the House Appropriations Committee:

Local Coronavirus Relief Fund	2020 Allocation	2021 Allocation	Total
Bergen County	349,498,519	174,749,259	524,247,778
Hudson County	252,090,919	126,045,459	378,136,378
Passaic County	188,143,175	94,071,587	282,214,762
Total	789,732,612	394,866,306	1,184,598,918

Local Coronavirus Relief Fund	2020 Allocation	2021 Allocation	Total
-------------------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-------

Carlstadt Borough	2,037,662	1,018,831	3,056,493
Cliffside Park Borough	8,536,064	4,268,032	12,804,096
Clifton	54,811,023	27,405,511	82,216,534
Cresskill Borough	2,888,142	1,444,071	4,332,213
East Rutherford Borough	3,213,654	1,606,827	4,820,482
Edgewater Borough	4,186,571	2,093,286	6,279,857
Elmwood Park Borough	6,622,156	3,311,078	9,933,233
Englewood City	9,421,102	4,710,551	14,131,654
Englewood Cliffs Borough	1,772,381	886,191	2,658,572
Fort Lee Borough	12,481,052	6,240,526	18,721,578
Garfield City	10,488,152	5,244,076	15,732,227
Haledon Borough	2,737,070	1,368,535	4,105,605
Hasbrouck Heights Borough	3,975,926	1,987,963	5,963,890
Hawthorne Borough	6,183,092	3,091,546	9,274,638
Kearny Town	13,633,346	6,816,673	20,450,019
Leonia Borough	2,998,401	1,499,201	4,497,602
Little Ferry Borough	3,561,877	1,780,939	5,342,816
Lyndhurst Township	7,431,823	3,715,911	11,147,734
Moonachie Borough	902,812	451,406	1,354,218
North Arlington Borough	5,180,882	2,590,441	7,771,323

Palisades Park Borough	6,852,549	3,426,274	10,278,823
Passaic City	65,181,142	32,590,571	97,771,713
Paterson	122,238,631	61,119,316	183,357,947
Prospect Park Borough	1,928,390	964,195	2,892,585
Ridgefield Borough	3,707,683	1,853,842	5,561,525
Ridgefield Park Village	4,281,691	2,140,845	6,422,536
Rutherford Borough	6,075,795	3,037,897	9,113,692
Saddle Brook Township	4,584,822	2,292,411	6,877,234
Secaucus Town	6,826,876	3,413,438	10,240,314
South Hackensack Township	811,642	405,821	1,217,463
Teaneck Township	13,369,052	6,684,526	20,053,579
Tenafly Borough	4,818,836	2,409,418	7,228,254
Teterboro Borough	22,381	11,191	33,572
Wallington Borough	3,814,980	1,907,490	5,722,471
Wood-Ridge Borough	3,014,529	1,507,264	4,521,793
Total	410,592,189	205,296,094	615,888,283

###

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 10:42 AM
Subject: During National Police Week Pascrell Lauds HEROES Act Support for Police, First Responders



U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
For Immediate Release
May 15, 2020

Media Contacts:
Mark.greenbaum@mail.house.gov

During National Police Week Pascrell Lauds HEROES Act Support for Police, First Responders

Introduction and possible passage during National Police Week a fitting recognition of special role

PATERSON, NJ – U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09), the co-chairman of the House Law Enforcement Caucus, today touted a raft of funding and support for America's law enforcement included in the emergency Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act ([H.R. 6800](#)) that the House of Representatives is slated to consider Friday.

"That this landmark legislation is called the HEROES Act is appropriate because a big part of it is about supporting our police," **said Rep. Pascrell, one of Congress's leaders for law enforcement.** "While this pandemic is touching every person and corner of our country, the burden on our law enforcement is especially heavy. With first responders and medical personnel, America's officers in blue constitute the very front line of national defense. The men and woman serving in departments across our country standing between us and this virus are keeping us all safe. They need support from the federal government. That this bill was unveiled during National Police Week celebrations is especially fitting. I am disappointed we can't hold all of our regular meetings with law enforcement leaders because of the crisis, but this legislation is an important recognition and support for their service."

The HEROES Act includes the following in support of law enforcement

Benefits for the fallen. The Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act ([H.R. 6509](#)) was included in the HEROES Act to provide a Public Safety Officer Benefits (PSOB) death and disability presumption for officers who contract COVID-19. Rep. Pascrell joined Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-NY-10) and Rep. Max Rose (D-NY-11) in [introducing this legislation in April](#), and advocated for its inclusion in this bill to ensure any officer who falls or becomes disabled by COVID-19 receives federal benefits.

Covering first responder expenses. The Supporting America's First Responders Act ([H.R. 5342](#)) was included in the HEROES Act to provide an above-the-line tax deduction to first responders for expenses related for tuition or fees tied to professional development courses or uniforms. Rep. Pascrell [introduced H.R. 5342 in December](#) 2019 and called for its inclusion in the HEROES Act to allow first responders to receive a tax deduction for personal protective equipment (PPE) purchases to protect our men and women in uniform. The HEROES Act also temporarily allows this deduction to apply to any front line employee, and not just first responders.

Providing more assistance to responders. In April, Rep. Pascrell [led 159 of his Democratic and Republican colleagues](#) in a letter to House leadership calling for additional aid to first responders in further stimulus packages. The HEROES Act follows through on his several of Rep. Pascrell's direct requests by:

- **Providing \$300 million for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants** for hiring and re-hiring of police officers, with federal cost-share requirements removed.
- **Providing \$300 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne JAG)** to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, including for PPE equipment and controlling outbreaks of the virus at prisons, with federal cost-share requirements removed. As Rep. Pascrell has [long advocated for](#), this bill additionally prevents the Department of Justice from preventing these funds from going to sanctuary jurisdictions.
- Eliminating provisions that permit emergency responders' employers to exclude their employees from emergency Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave due to COVID-19. **This ensures first responders have guaranteed paid sick and family leave protections.**
- **Providing premium pay for first responders**, in addition to other essential workers. Specifically, essential work employers are eligible for grants of \$10,000 per essential worker (\$5,000 for highly compensated essential workers) to cover the entire cost of premium pay, including employer payroll taxes for premium pay. Employers that apply for and receive grants will pay essential workers \$13 per hour premium pay on top of regular wages.
- **Waives the federal law enforcement officer premium pay and overtime cap** under 5 USC § 5547.
- Assures a **two-year elimination of the state and local tax (SALT) deduction** cap imposed by the GOP tax scam of 2017. This change will gives state and local governments great flexibility to avoid cuts to police departments and social services, and has been one of Rep. Pascrell's top priorities in the 116th Congress.

###

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 10:55 AM
Subject: Pascrell Bill Supporting Heroic First Responders Passes House



U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
For Immediate Release
May 27, 2020

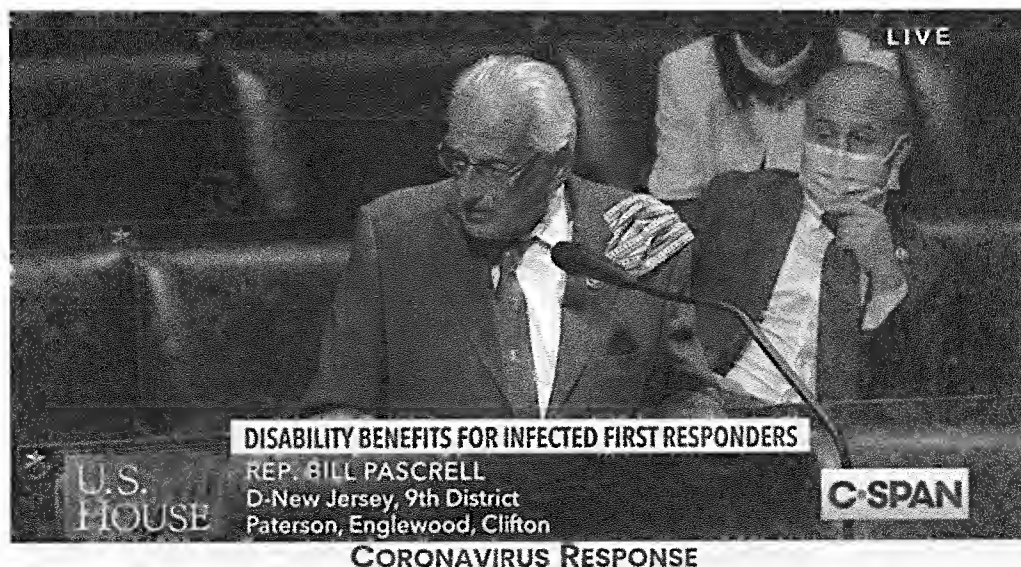
Media Contacts:

Mark.greenbaum@mail.house.gov

Pascrell Bill Supporting Heroic First Responders Passes House

Legislation will provide line-of-duty benefits to families of officers who contract the virus

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09) today praised House passage of his Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act ([H.R. 6509](#)), which will ensure that public safety officers who contract COVID-19 in the line of duty are eligible for benefits for their families should they become disabled or die from the virus. Pascrell introduced the legislation last month with House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-10) and Rep. Max Rose (D-NY-11).



"We have lost too many first responders to this crisis. Today's passage of our bill is but the latest in our efforts to protect those who protect us. Providing our heroes and their families with peace of mind and the benefits they deserve is the absolute least we must do," said Rep. Pascrell, co-chair of the Congressional

Law Enforcement Caucus and the Fire Services Caucus. “I want to thank Chairman Jerry Nadler and Congressman Max Rose for their persistence and leadership on this issue. While we were able to include language from this bill in the House’s landmark HEROES Act last week, that legislative package remains held up in the Senate. So today we are passing this legislation again to make crystal clear the importance of doing right by our first responders. I want to especially thank Senators Cory Booker and Chuck Grassley for their work to pass this vital change in the upper chamber. This policy must become law as soon as possible.”

The Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act was included in the HEROES Act to provide a Public Safety Officer Benefits (PSOB) death and disability presumption for officers who contract COVID-19. Rep. Pascrell joined Chairman Nadler and Rep. Rose in introducing this legislation in April, and advocated for its inclusion in this bill to ensure any officer who falls or becomes disabled by COVID-19 receives federal benefits. The families of Paterson Police Officer Frank Scorpo and Passaic Firefighter Israel Tolentino would automatically qualify for benefits under this bill.

Rep. Pascrell has been leading this effort since early April when he led a letter of 160 House members calling for the line of duty presumption to be extended.

The Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act of 2020 would:

- Establish that a diagnosis for COVID-19 will be presumed to constitute a personal injury in the line of duty for the purposes of eligibility for the Public Safety Officer Benefit program, unless the officer was not on duty in the relevant time period.
- Establish the COVID-19-related disability standard be based on whether a PSOB claimant is permanently prevented from performing any gainful work as a public safety officer on account of their COVID-19 diagnosis.
- Ensure that officers who were injured or disabled in the line of duty in relation to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and whose injuries – in combination with a line of duty COVID-19 illness – rendered them disabled or caused their death, will receive benefits under the PSOB program.

Currently, public safety officers or their families are eligible to receive benefits under the Public Safety Officers’ Benefit program, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, upon death or disability caused by injury or illness sustained in the line of duty. The Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act of 2020 would expand the program to include COVID-19 as an eligible personal injury. In the immediate aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks, Congress passed into law a bill to amend the PSOB to ensure those killed and injured on 9/11 were immediately eligible for the program.

A section by section of the legislation is available here.

Rep. Pascrell has worked tirelessly to provide support for public safety officers before and during this crisis. His letter in early April sparked calls for this change to be made. The two North Jersey first responders who lost their lives due to COVID-19 would automatically qualify for death benefits if Pascrell’s request is granted. Pascrell is also leading the way on reforms for the PSOB program with the Protecting America’s First Responders Act (H.R. 2812).

###

Dennis Rivelli

From: Godfrey, Ian <Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:20 AM
Subject: Tonight (6/10)-Listening Session Hosted by Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. with guest Bergen County Sheriff Anthony Cureton-Discussing Systemic Racism

RE: Listening Session with Community Leaders on Systemic Racism

Date: Wednesday, June 10

Time: 6:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

Greetings,

The tragic death of George Floyd, and the ongoing civil unrest across our country shows the absolute importance of grappling with the racism rampant in our society. Like Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Laquan McDonald, Mr. Floyd's death is yet one more example of the violence inflicted on too many in our Black communities. Each day, Black Americans and other minority communities find their lives under threat by the very people and institutions intended to protect them. Until we have an open, honest and frank reckoning, America cannot be truly equal for all of us.

Please accept this invitation to join me in an urgent listening session I am holding with leaders in northern New Jersey on systemic racism. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback about what can be done. Most importantly, this is an opportunity to listen. [Register now](#) and email Ian.Godfrey@mail.house.gov with any questions. Feel free to forward information about this call to other members of your organization. As your representative and your friend, you will always have my support.

I look forward to speaking with you on Wednesday.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress